**Treaty on Mahakali River**

3795. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahakali Integrated Treaty signed between India and Nepal has been welcomed by both the countries;

(b) if so, whether the Nepal Parliament has ratified the treaty;

(c) to what extent the relations between India and Nepal have been strengthened after visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India; and

(d) whether all outstanding issues between the two countries have been removed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (d) (i) The Treaty on the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River was concluded during the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister to India in February 1996. India and Nepal have welcomed the signing of the Treaty which would bring significant benefits to both the countries. The Treaty is expected to be tabled during the current session of the Nepalese Parliament for ratification.

(ii) India and Nepal enjoy friendly relations which were further strengthened by the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister. All round progress in accelerating the pace of bilateral ties in various spheres has been made in the months following the visit. Commerce Secretary visited Kathmandu in July 1996 when it was agreed to remove the 50% material and labour content requirement for duty free imports of products of Nepalese manufacture into India.

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## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Report (1995-96) of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi and Related Papers**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-secton (2) of section 20 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993:—

(i) Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Memorandum of Action Taken on the Annual Report of National Human Rights Commission for the year 1995-96. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 480/96]

**I. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi and related papers.**

**II. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the Carpet-Export Promotion Council, Ghaziabad (U.P.) and related pepers.**

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

I. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi for the year 1994-95 together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.

II. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, Ghaziabad, (U.P.) for the year 1994-95 together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council. [Placed in Library for (i) and (ii) *see* No. L.T. 601/96]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, I seek your permission to lay the papers mentioned against the name of Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena on the Table of the House ...*(interruptions)*....

(The Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What permission? ...*(interruptions)*.... काहे की परमिशन चाहिए। अभी एक काम थोड़ा सा है। क्या परमिशन चाहिए।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister substituted another Minister to lay the papers on the Table of the House. Both the Parliamentary Affairs Ministers are not here